

From: "Monterey Abalone Company"
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To: <ccrsgcomments@resources.ca.gov>
Subject: kelp as a species likely to benefit from MPAs
Date: Fri, 12 Aug 2005 12:12:13 -0700

Dear CCRSG,

Please consider the following comments regarding the inclusion of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) on the list of species likely to benefit from MPA's.

I suggest that it would be beneficial to discussion about MPA's whose purpose is to protect kelp forests if the information in section 3.1.5 of the Central Coast Regional Profile includes some discussion of the following:

- giant kelp grows very fast, plants may live for a few years and new fronds are continually being produced that replace older fronds that are broken off.

- spores are released by kelp plants and may be viable up to a mile away, however experiments have shown that recruitment density rapidly declined with distance from the adult stand, significantly lower recruitment was observed as little as 10 feet from adults (source: DFG Environmental

Document: Giant and Bull Kelp Commercial and Sportfishing Regulations, 2000).

- kelp is relatively abundant along the Central California coast.
- although giant kelp is included in the list of species likely to benefit from MPA's, it may not benefit in the same ways as other species that grow slowly and whose larvae are transported over long distances. Inclusion of kelp beds in MPA's may not result in an increase of abundance of kelp outside of MPA's.

Thanks for considering these comments.

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